

HELP 371: Joy of Math

Summer 1, 2008
MTWThF
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Room

Instructor: Betsy Lavolette
Email:
Office: MC 13-3
Office hours: MTWThF 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Course description

We will learn English and review mathematical concepts by discussing, researching, reading about, and writing about math topics. We will also listen to music, watch videos, and go on field trips related to math. The topics we will study depend on your interests, but some topics include the Fibonacci sequence, the Pythagorean theorem, English measurement units, statistics, economics, Mars, the decimal system, origami, math history, GRE/GMAT/SAT math sections, and optical illusions.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, you will be able to

- explain and use math-related vocabulary in speech and writing.
- transfer your knowledge of mathematical concepts from situations using your native language to situations using English.
- read aloud mathematical symbols and equations.
- question cultural and gender stereotypes about mathematical abilities.
- prepare and deliver a presentation on a general-interest topic related to mathematics using visual aids.
- appraise the unstated purposes and meanings of media such as videos, songs, and news articles.

Materials

This class has no textbook. Pick up your course binder from the HELP Bookstore. Your instructor will give you handouts to add to it as necessary.

Class requirements

Attendance and participation
Field trips
Project

Journals
Vocabulary quizzes
Homework

Grading

We will decide together how you will be graded on the class requirements. Your final grade will be determined using the scale on the right.

%	Grade
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-0	F

Absences

If you miss more than two classes (or are late for more than 120 minutes total), your grade will go down by one letter. So, if your grade was an A-, it will become a B-. You will also get a written warning and may be put on academic probation.

If you are absent, find out the homework and do it on time. (You can email me or one of your classmates.)

Need help? Have questions?

Please feel free to talk to me after class or email me anytime.

Week	Day	In Class	Homework
1	Tuesday, June 10	Syllabus Intro to journals and quizzes Vocabulary pre-test Number systems	“Number Systems” (read only!) Answer “How do you want to be graded?” Study for quiz
	Wednesday, June 11	No class: King Kamehameha Day	
	Thursday, June 12	Vocabulary review Vocabulary Quiz 1 Number systems Intro to WebCT Little Twelvetoos	Journal 1 “Little Twelvetoos” WebCT exercises (2), written questions
	Friday, June 13	Journal 1 due Intro to projects Little Twelvetoos Significant numbers	“Into numbers” WebCT exercises (2)
2	Monday, June 16	Vocabulary review game Circles	Study for quiz
	Tuesday, June 17	Vocabulary Quiz 2	Journal 2
	Wednesday, June 18	Journal 2 due DPPC preparation	
	Thursday, June 19	Vocabulary review game DPPC preparation	Study for quiz
	Friday, June 20	Vocabulary Quiz 3 Visit the DPPC?	Journal 3
3	Monday, June 23	Journal 3 due Project presentations Midterm course evaluations	Study for quiz
	Tuesday, June 24	Vocabulary review game Project presentations	
	Wednesday, June 25	Vocabulary Quiz 4 Project presentations	Journal 4
	Thursday, June 26	Journal 4 due Project presentations	
	Friday, June 27	Vocabulary review game Project presentations	Study for quiz
4	Monday, June 30	Vocabulary quiz 5	Journal 5
	Tuesday, July 1	Journal 5 due	
	Wednesday, July 2	Final course evaluations Party and games! Bring food to share if you like!	
	Thursday, July 3	End-of-Term Luncheon at The Willows	

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